
Office of Public Instruction

🍏 State Distribution to Schools 🍏

The OPI Distribution to Schools Division is responsible for distributing state funding to Montana's 441 school districts. This OPI division is one of the most cost efficient units within state government. The OPI operates the entire school financial distribution system with overhead costs of 1/10 of 1 percent, ensuring the maximum amount of state dollars reach the classroom. The division's functions include:

- 🍏 Distributes over \$560 million (40% of the Montana State Budget) of monthly state aid payments to Montana's 441 school districts under eight separate entitlement programs;
- 🍏 Implements new state legislation affecting school district finances and state funding for schools to guarantee accountability for all state education dollars;
- 🍏 Directs school district accounting and budgeting policies;
- 🍏 Collects and compiles school fiscal data for use by public, federal, state, and local decision makers;
- 🍏 Provides technical budgeting assistance and training for school districts, county officials and school district auditors;
- 🍏 Monitors school district compliance with state and federal fiscal regulations;
- 🍏 Serves as liaison to the U.S. Department of Education's Impact Aid Program;
- 🍏 Operates the state computer system (MAEFAIRS) that collects and reports school district budget, financial, enrollment and payment information; and
- 🍏 Reviews 250 school district audit reports each year and monitors recommended corrective actions.

